

# EMERITUS

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## The changing face of COVID-19 prompts new alert system at ANU

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, has alerted the ANU community to new measures being implemented at the university to cope with a new period of transition. In thanking everyone who has returned to campus over the past few months Professor Schmidt said, “Everything we do as individuals to follow social distancing and practice good hygiene will keep our community as a whole safe. I’ve also seen many people, who like me, have been wearing masks. Thank you to everyone for your vigilance.

“As we transition into pandemic-era business as usual (BAU) for our campus, we have made some changes to our COVID response levels and the University’s COVID management and governance arrangements.” These comprise:

### New COVID alert system

The previous stages of return to campus will be replaced by a [traffic light system](#) of risk levels, similar to the ACT Emergency Services bushfire rating system. Our current level is “low” with no or low community transmissions in the ACT. Any movement within these stages will be determined by community transmission in the ACT or the risk of community

transmission on campus. You will be alerted immediately via the ANUOK app when there is a change in our level. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the requirements of each level and note that until we are entirely COVID-free as a society, the now-customary restrictions are in place. We won't return to 'normal' until COVID has been eliminated.

### **Categorising “essential staff”**

When we moved to remote work and learning in March this year, we did so very quickly and we have learnt from this experience, particularly around the longer-term impacts on some critical research projects and infrastructure (for example, plants, animals or cadavers). Should the University move into high or extreme levels, as per the COVID alert system (above), the definition of essential staff – people who cannot do their job remotely – will be determined by the relevant Dean or Portfolio head. Areas have risk assessments in place that can change if the COVID threat level escalates to High (Orange) and Extreme (Red).

### **Reporting potential COVID cases**

An important part of continuing to keep our community safe is to keep people informed of potential risks. If you have a COVID-19 test under assessment or have tested positive to COVID-19, you must contact [communitywellbeing@anu.edu.au](mailto:communitywellbeing@anu.edu.au) and your supervisor. The Community Wellbeing Team will review the circumstances and reach out to you and, depending on how you may have contracted COVID-19 and if you have visited campus, be able to protect other staff by implementing relevant cleaning and communications responses. Your privacy will be protected at all times. But it is **essential** we act swiftly should anyone in our community contract COVID-19 for the health and safety of everyone. To this end I would also ask anyone on campus to remember to fill out contact details at the eateries on campus if you visit them. This is a necessary expectation of Government to help keep us all quickly informed if we may have been exposed to COVID.

### **Expert advisory panel**

I am an astrophysicist. I can do some rough modelling sums on the back of an envelope, but I am not an epidemiologist, nor a public health expert. That's why from the beginning of this pandemic I have sought the advice of the experts – and I am lucky to be able to call on the leaders in their field, in many cases the same experts who are advising the national response. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their time, commitment and advice as we have and continue to navigate this unprecedented challenge. As you can see from the list below, the experts whose advice I've been relying on over the past few months – and will keep relying on until this is behind us! – are a real who's who of Australian medical expertise:

- Professor Russell Gruen, Dean, College of Health and Medicine
- Dr Kamalini Lokuge, Research School of Public Health
- Professor Emily Banks, Research School of Public Health
- Professor Tracy Smart, College of Health and Medicine
- Professor Graham Mann, John Curtin School of Medical Research
- Professor Darren Gray, Research School of Public Health
- Professor Ian Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and University Experience)
- Professor Peter Collignon, ANU Medical School
- Professor Martyn Kirk, Research School of Public Health
- Associate Professor Sanjaya Senanayake, ANU Medical School
- Professor Iain Walker, Head of School of Psychology

- Lucy Kirk, research assistant and final year medical student, ANU Medical School

### **COVID Committee and COVID Response Office**

We have disbanded the BAU Taskforce which was focussing on a safe return to campus for our staff and students. However, COVID will be a part of our lives at least until a vaccine is found, so we must have in place the right management structure to ensure our operations can continue safely and with minimal disruption. The COVID Committee will oversee the University's policy development for managing COVID-19 in our community. The Committee is led by Professor Ian Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and University Experience) and public health expert. A representative from ACT Health will also be on the COVID Committee to ensure our policies align with the ACT Government's response to managing community transition in Canberra and its surrounds.

Reporting to the COVID Safe Committee will be the COVID Response Office, led by our newly appointed Public Health Lead Professor Tracy Smart. Tracy is the former Surgeon-General of the Australian Defence Force and is a professor of military and aerospace medicine. Tracy will be seconded from the College of Health and Medicine part time to the COVID Response Office to lead the development and implementation of the University's policies.

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### **Universities Australia calls for relief for research**

Immediate relief is needed to support Australia's university research and ensure investment already made in projects and facilities is not wasted, Universities Australia has warned in its Pre-Budget Submission to Government. The peak body representing Australia's 39 comprehensive universities makes five key recommendations designed to prevent serious damage to the nation's research capability, as well as arguing for hardship funding for international students, and a new approach to expanding the nation's clinical education capacity.

Universities Australia's Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the submission spells out the serious challenges facing Australian research in the wake of COVID-19. "Independent estimates show that \$3.3 billion - around 27 per cent - of university research and development budgets are at risk. Private sector investment is expected to decline sharply, making the role universities have played in keeping Australia's R&D effort alive ever more important. The university research sector needs policies and investments that address short-, medium- and long-term issues created by the pandemic. Other countries have acknowledged this immediate threat and provided funding to support research continuity and retention of talent."

Universities Australia has made the following recommendations to the Treasurer, the Australian Government:

- Provide stabilisation funding for the university research workforce as soon as possible.
- Increase investment in university research as an essential pillar that underpins national prosperity, competitiveness and security.
- Consider implementing a collaboration premium for the Research and Development Tax Incentive.

## Obituary

### **Professor Charles Ian Edward Donaldson FBA FRSE FAHA**

**6th May 1935 - 8th March 2020**

Charles Ian Edward Donaldson was born in Melbourne on May 6, 1935. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School; he completed his Bachelor of Arts (Honours 1 English Language and Literature) at The University of Melbourne in 1957, teaching briefly in 1958 in the English Department at Melbourne.

Ian completed a second Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts at The University of Oxford, graduating in 1964. He was tutorial Fellow in English at Wadham College from 1962 to 1969, CUF Lecturer in English at Oxford from 1963 to 1969, and Chair of the Oxford English Faculty in 1968-9.

In 1969 he was appointed as Professor of English at ANU and in 1974 was appointed founding Director of the ANU's newly established Humanities Research Centre, a position he held until 1991, when he was appointed Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at The University of Edinburgh.

In 1995 he was appointed Grace 1 Professor of English at The University of Cambridge and Fellow of King's College, becoming, in 2001, the founding Director of Cambridge's new Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and the Humanities (CRASSH). He returned to the HRC as Director in 2004, a position he held until 2007 when he returned to Melbourne as an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Culture and Communication.

Ian also taught at The University of California, Santa Barbara, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Cornell University, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and The University of Melbourne.

Ian was a Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and Fellow and Past President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He was elected to the Academy in 1975 and served as Vice-President from 1980-2 and again from 2005-7. He was President of the Academy from 2007-9 and Immediate Past President from 2010-12. He was Emeritus Professor and honorary D.Univ. at ANU, and honorary D.Litt. of the University of Melbourne, where he was also a Fellow of Trinity College.

Ian was one of the world's leading Ben Jonson scholars and an international authority in the field of early modern English literary studies. His books include *The World Upside-Down: Comedy From Jonson to Fielding* (1970), *Ben Jonson: Poems* (1975), *The Rapes of Lucretia: A Myth and its Transformations* (1982), *Ben Jonson* (1985), *Jonsons Magic Houses: Essays in Interpretation* (1997), and *Ben Jonson: A Life* (2011).

He was a General Editor, with David Bevington and Martin Butler, of The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson, published as Print Edition in seven volumes in 2012, and as an Electronic Edition (of roughly four times that size) in 2013. The Editions, which include over 500 contextual documents, 80 essays, several hundred images, details of stage performances, and a cross-linked bibliography of over 7000 items, were acclaimed "a monumental feat in Jonson scholarship".

Ian's innovative and enterprising leadership of the HRC up to 1991 is fully documented in Glen St John Barclay and Caroline Turner's book *The Humanities Research Centre. A History of the First 30 Years* (ANU Press, 2004). The HRC began in the Childers Street prefabs before moving into the A.D. Hope building.

The HRC history fully evokes the stimulating academic and social environment that Ian, along with his colleagues, such as Mary Theo, Graeme Clarke and James Grieve provided over the years. The many high-profile academic visitors to the HRC, particularly from overseas. are a tribute to Ian's reputation.

Many of the visitors reflected on how Ian and his colleagues made them feel welcome in Canberra. One noted Oxford scholar told me in the 1980s that he only came to Canberra because Ian had promised him that he could have a note on his door saying 'Do Not Disturb for Three Months' - needless to say Ian soon charmed him out of the study.

Graeme Clarke comments in the Barclay and Turner book that Ian was extremely 'adroit' in dealing with the 'Byzantine machinations of university bureaucracy', which Ian needed as the HRC ricocheted between the administration of the Faculty of Arts and the Research School of Social Sciences and the ever changing nature of ANU centres and units on campus.

During his first Directorship of the HRC, Ian helped to organise more than 80 international interdisciplinary conferences, working often in collaboration with the Australian National Gallery, the National Library of Australia, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and other institutions throughout Australasia. Under his leadership the HRC acquired a substantial international reputation and became the model for subsequent humanities centres overseas.

Ian continued this collaboration in his second term within the context of supporting and advancing the cause of the humanities as widely as possible. As a Fellow of the Academy of Humanities, Ian led two major ARC Learned Academies Special Projects: 'Promoting Scholarly Writing in the Public Sphere' (2005), which aimed to encourage scholars in the humanities to acquire the skills to write accessibly for non-experts; and 'The Humanities in Australian Life since 1968' (2009), which resulted in a significant publication entitled *Taking Stock: The Humanities in Australian Life since 1968* (2012).

He chaired a number of colloquia held by the Academy including a highly successful symposium on 'Philanthropy and the Humanities' (2007), and the Colloquium of Australian Tertiary Language Teachers, 'Beyond the Crisis: Revitalising Languages in Australian Universities' (2009). Ian thus made an extraordinary contribution as a researcher, a teacher, and an academic leader in Australia and in the UK.

Ian's first marriage in March 1962 was to Tamsin Procter (1939-2014) and they had two children, Benjamin and Sadie. His second marriage in 1991 was to noted arts scholar, curator and critic Dr Grazia Gunn, who with, Ben and Sadie, survives him.

Peter Robb once wrote in *The Monthly*, Ian "is a scholar and a gentleman, maybe one of the last". The Academy of Humanities concluded its obituary with Ben Jonson's comment on Shakespeare, which certainly applied to Ian: "He was not of an age, but for all time!"<sup>1</sup>

**Colin Steele**

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<sup>1</sup>Thanks to the Australian Academy of the Humanities, whose Vale provided substantial details for this obituary.

## **John Michael Arthur Chappell FAA**

**April 24, 1940 –October 3, 2018**

John was born in Auckland, New Zealand and studied geology at the University of Auckland, where he completed an MSc with first class honours in 1964. The following year, he enrolled as a PhD student in the Geology Department at ANU, and in 1967 he was appointed to a lectureship in the Department of Geography, where he taught as a lecturer, senior lecturer and reader, until 1979. Publications from his PhD thesis, completed in 1973, on coral terraces in New Guinea, earned him an international reputation in the field of sea level and climate change over the last few hundred thousand years.

During his time in the Geography Department, John managed to balance a full undergraduate teaching load, with supervision of several PhD students as well as publishing a series of ground-breaking papers arising from his own research. Despite the increasing workload, John remained generous with his time when mentoring students, which became a hallmark of his whole career.

In 1979, John was appointed as a Professorial Fellow in the Department of Biogeography & Geomorphology in the (then) Research School of Pacific Studies (later, RSPAS), and in 1998, during restructuring in RSPAS, he transferred to the Research School of Earth Sciences, where he remained until his retirement in 2005. In 2008 he, and his wife, Helen, moved to Dunedin, a city that John described as “the least spoiled city in New Zealand”, where he was able to indulge his passion for sailing, until he died in 2018.

John was a true polymath, aided by his prodigious memory. There were times when he could recall details as if he was reading them from a book. No topic seemed too difficult for him to understand, dissect and explain. As a result, he was a highly valued colleague of many across the ANU campus, not only within the geosciences, but also in archaeology, human geography, strategic and defence studies, history and the School of Art. An intellect such as John’s can sometimes be intimidating to others less capable, but that was never the case with John – he shared his insights freely and easily with all who wished to learn from him.

In 1992, John was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. At a one-day symposium at the Academy, in 2008, to mark his retirement, colleagues from many disciplines paid tribute to his remarkable career. Afterwards, John’s son, Louis, remarked “we [the family] never knew how famous dad was”. This remark perfectly encapsulated John’s lack of self-promotion – he didn’t care to talk up his achievements – he just got on with the job.

John Chappell is sorely missed by many colleagues and former students. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and five children: Samantha, Gwenhyfar (Zoe), Anna, Louis and Bridget.

**Brad Pillans**

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## **Merle Calvin Ricklefs AM**

### **July 17, 1943 – December 29, 2019**

Merle Ricklefs was a pioneer in exploring Java's past in its own terms, in training a generation of scholars in Indonesian history, religion and politics, and in expanding opportunities in tertiary education for indigenous Australians. His time in senior Australian university roles marked a high point in the 'mainstreaming' of Southeast Asia in Australian universities. Elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1989, he served as a council member and international secretary in 1992-95.

Born in the small mid-western prairie town of Fort Dodge, Iowa, ideologically as far from central Java as imaginable, he overcame its limitations with a strong work ethic and sense of purpose encouraged by his parents, and a fortunately excellent school that began his language prowess with a foundation in German and French. He escaped initially to a small liberal arts college in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but transferred to Colorado College just outside Denver for his last two years. He starred as a history major, sufficient in 1965 to earn scholarships to graduate study in the best universities. Just why the lad from Iowa chose Indonesian history is something of a mystery, but having done so Cornell University was the obvious place to do it.

Southeast Asia was, at the time, central in American consciousness in a way it would never be after 1975. US policy in Viet Nam was ever more widely challenged after the introduction of conscription for service in a war not seen as directly involving the defence of the US. The desire to better understand what was really behind Southeast Asian resistance to US pressure drove an exceptional cohort of idealistic young Americans to take up graduate study on Southeast Asia. Cornell was seen by many of Merle's generation as the place to do this because of the activism of its Professor George Kahin. The academic pioneer in sympathetic analysis of Indonesian nationalism and the Republic to which it had given birth, Kahin had been recruited to head a Ford Foundation-funded Modern Indonesia Project at Cornell in 1953, within the context of a strong Southeast Asia Centre there. In the sixties Kahin became deeply involved in public debate about the US Indochina involvement, making Cornell even more a symbol of liberal values in relation to Southeast Asia.

Merle experienced Cornell (1965-67) at its most politically engaged and turbulent. In addition to the Indochina issues, the leftist coup in Indonesia on 1 October, 1965 and the ensuing brutal suppression of the Left played out in his first months as a graduate student. The 'Cornell Paper' written by Ben Anderson, Fred Bunnell and Ruth McVey, though intended as a provisional explanation for a select group of specialists, became a major factor in the international response and made it difficult for Cornell scholars to visit Indonesia.

Merle, along with Craig Reynolds, was one of the first students of Oliver Wolters, the former British colonial Chinese specialist in Malaya, recruited to Cornell's faculty to extend its reach into earlier history. His dense lectures on the 'classical' Southeast Asian kingdoms were not for everyone, but they appealed to Merle in a way that politically-engaged Kahin and Benedict Anderson did not. Craig relates that Merle was immediately drawn to Wolters' enthusiasm for his subject, and challenged rather than intimidated by the languages needed to study it. An early term paper, based on French translations of the epigraphy of tenth-century Cambodia, so impressed Wolters that he encouraged an early publication in the prestigious *Journal of Asian Studies* of May 1967. Merle's second publication was a translation from middle Javanese, in collaboration with the ANU Javanist Supomo Suryohudoyo. He mastered Indonesian and began reading Dutch, spurred on by fascination with Wolters' lectures on C.C. Berg and his battles with the other Dutch Javanists.

However central Cornell was in the political debates on Southeast Asia policy, it could not teach him the Middle Javanese he needed to understand pre-colonial Javanese society. For that he needed the scholars, manuscripts and archives of the Netherlands, already a strong presence in Wolters' teaching. Merle found fellowships, including the Ford Foundation's sought-after Foreign Area Fellowship, that would allow him to study at London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, 1967-8). The School had appointed one of the leading Dutch Javanists, Christiaan Hooykaas, to a rare lectureship in Old Javanese. In weekly visits to Hooykaas' house outside London and frequent visits to Holland, he polished his skills in reading the difficult 18<sup>th</sup> century scripts of both Dutch and Javanese texts of the time.

The formal niceties of 'old Europe' appear to have made a deep impression, and might explain his exceptionally formal dress thereafter. England also gave him an ideal life partner, Margaret, as formally courteous as himself. In December 1968 they married, and set off a month later to tackle the cultural challenges of Jogjakarta (now Yogyakarta) and its arcane court life. Merle had to read the texts preserved in the *kraton* (palace) sitting cross-legged in the appropriate hall, the most sacred ones having been "brought in ceremonial procession from the *Prabajeksa* to the *Bangsai Manis*, on a suitable day and accompanied by appropriate offerings (*sadjen*) borne by *kraton* officials" (*Jogjakarta*, 194n.).

He carefully sidestepped the war among the handful of Dutch Javanists as to how much if any historical credence could be given to the relatively well-known, quasi-mythical history of Java in the *Babad Tanah Djawi*. Mythical texts were invaluable, he wrote, "for reconstructing myths, cultural values, and idealized perceptions of actual situations" (*Jogjakarta*, xix). But rather than the *BTJ* Merle focussed on less known texts he identified as 'historical', which even though in poetic form described their own time with dates and details that held up well when compared with Dutch sources.

Enormously demanding, his thesis was completed only in 1973, but in a polished form that could be published by OUP the following year as *Jogjakarta under Sultan Mangkubumi, 1749-1792: A history of the division of Java*. There he set out his high standards of how Javanese history could be written to satisfy modern expectations of accuracy through combining the matter-of-fact (but often confused and misled) Dutch records with the essential Javanese court narratives. Oxford Javanist Peter Carey noted that he read it cover to cover in two days and immediately thought this had set a new 'gold standard for Javanese studies'. I thought the same when I reviewed it in wonderment a little later. The problem is that the bar was set so high that few but he could reach it.

Fortunately, he delivered abundantly himself in the prolific career that followed. Two further volumes (1993 and 1998) covered with the same meticulous detail the even more obscure period 1677-1749 before that of the Jogjakarta book. Once freed from his demanding administrative roles in the present century, he charted another ambitious trilogy, explaining historically the unique path Java took in negotiating between the demands of global Islamic orthodoxy and the conviction that Javanese mysticism had much of its own to contribute. The first volume, *Mystic Synthesis in Java* (2006) showed how Java's strongest king, Sultan Agung, crafted the particular Javanese amalgam of outward conformity with Islam and the continuing guidance of the Indic gods and sages embodied in wayang. The second, *Polarising Javanese Society* (2007) showed how the colonial period allowed for a different dualism, whereby the aristocrats who dominated the Dutch-devised new order could refine their Javanese tradition, while increasing contacts with Mecca through the pilgrimage and other currents of Islamic reformism created rival elites - the origin of the *aliran* (currents) pattern of competing world-views made famous by Clifford Geertz. The latest stage of ever-

wider spread of Islamic, indeed often Arab, norms since 1930 was charted in *Islamisation and its Opponents in Java* (2012).

Well before the PhD was awarded, SOAS was far-sighted enough to recognise this talent and appoint him Lecturer in Southeast Asian History (1969-79). Teaching the subject in London quickly turned his thoughts to the need for reliable and accessible guides to the subject. In 1978 he proved his case that some of the Javanese chronicles were historically reliable by publishing a critical edition and translation of a previously little-known dated chronicle, though the oldest extant Javanese chronicle, which he labelled *Babad Ing Sangkala* and dated 1738 (*Modern Javanese Historical Tradition*, 1978). This remarkable text was one of those brought to London by Raffles, all of which were included in his catalogue, *Indonesian Manuscripts in Great Britain* (Ricklefs and Voorhoeve, 1977), showing the surprising wealth of texts that ended up in the UK rather than Holland.

Merle's most popular work, *A History of Modern Indonesia, ca. 1300 to the present* (Macmillan, 1981) was also a product of these London years. Though not the easiest read among Indonesian histories, it remains the most factually dense and reliable, and proved indispensable. He revised and updated it for new editions in 1993, 2001 and 2008, and it became the first of his books to have popular Indonesian editions (1991, 2005, and 2008).

Despite his highly specialised work on Early Modern Java, he always believed that the best historians should also write for a broad audience. In 1979 he joined the editorial board of *History Today*, an illustrated magazine with some 50,000 readers, notably British history teachers. Merle remained active in giving it an Asian dimension through his Australian years -- the last of his 6 articles there appeared only a year before his death. His later ANU appointment allowed him the human and material resources to establish an ambitious local replica, the equally glossy *Asia Pacific Magazine*. Unfortunately it proved impossible to sustain after three years, 1996-8. Later, notably in Singapore, he wrote a series of think pieces on Indonesia and Islam for the *Australian Financial Review* and the *Singapore Straits Times*, 2004-6.

Meanwhile, he became one of the American-trained stars who brightened the Australian firmament of Southeast Asian Studies in the 1970s and '80s. Australia's discovery that it was closely tied to Asia peaked in this period, just as the rich crop of American graduate students inspired by the Indochina conflict found there were no jobs for them in the United States.

Monash University had been established in 1960 and needed signs of being more progressive than the well-established Melbourne University. John Legge from UWA was appointed its first chair of history in 1960, having already taken up the challenge of becoming an Indonesianist through five months study at Cornell. He was the dominant factor in establishing Monash's Centre for Southeast Asian Studies (1964) and making key appointments to staff it. When he himself moved on to become Dean of the Faculty in 1977, he fought hard to ensure that his chair be filled in Asian History in addition to the two other professors since appointed. Merle was flown out for an interview in June 1979, and the position was his for the decade that followed (1980-93).

John Legge had built one of Australia's strongest history departments in his 20 years at its helm, with a good balance between regions of the world. The professors rotated the headship, and Merle had three two-year stints at the helm. He could seem formal to a Department with a reputation for radicalism, and did not suffer gladly those he considered fools or charlatans, but he was always supremely fair. He developed an efficient numerical scheme to allow the most productive researchers to spend more time on research and others (sometimes strong teachers) on teaching.

Legge's other great achievement had been to build an American-style Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, with dedicated Director (David Chandler in Merle's time) and Secretary, but other appointments residing in the discipline departments. Its key function was graduate study, and it attracted dozens of students from around the world. Merle proved a superb supervisor of eight PhDs and four MAs in his time at Monash, able to encourage and steer even the most wayward students to a satisfactory outcome. They included some prominent academics -- Professors Dewi Fortuna Anwar and Djoko Suryo in Indonesia, and Greg Fealy at ANU. Later there would be six more Indonesian PhDs in his time at Melbourne.

At Monash in particular, Merle devoted his reforming passion not (like many colleagues) to Southeast Asia's conflicts but to the unacceptable everyday racism he found in the society around him. Within a year of arrival in Australia he had begun working on better access to university for the grossly underrepresented indigenous community - there were then only about 10 indigenous students in Australia. In 1983 he could establish the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) to provide pre-tertiary training for indigenous students not otherwise qualified for entrance. By the time he left Monash it had 11 staff and 50 students, had produced a dozen graduates and was accepted as the kind of success that had to be widely replicated.

Shocked that a fellow Melbourne historian, Geoffrey Blainey, should have been the one to appear to legitimize opposition to Asian migration to Australia in the wake of the fall of Saigon, Merle also helped mobilise a group of colleagues with alternative views of the issue. The book he co-edited with Andrew Markus, *Surrender Australia? Essays in the Study and Uses of History: Geoffrey Blainey and Asian Immigration* (1985) was his one major incursion into political debate.

Although known internationally for his meticulous research in a very difficult field, Merle Ricklefs had demonstrated at Monash that he was also, unusually, a very fair and efficient administrator over fields very far from his own. In 1993 he was appointed to the pinnacle of Asian Studies in Australia, as Director of ANU's Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies (RSPAS). This was a difficult stage of static or after 1996 reduced funding, when some of those who had not lived up to the expectations of tenured research-only appointments had to be let go. At the time I admired the intelligence and orderliness with which Merle managed this, through obliging each division to establish its priorities and discreet discussions with those eased into retirement. By hindsight, in contrast with more recent arbitrary blood-letting at ANU, it was a marvel of keeping standards and morale high through difficult times.

An 'Asia Committee' was formed in his time, chaired by a Deputy Vice Chancellor, to ensure that the Director of RSPAS and the Dean of the Asian Studies Faculty (Tony Milner) would cooperate closely together. Tony remembers Merle as an ideal colleague - "reliable, flexible, ambitious for the university. Together we worked not only on coordinating the different ANU institutions but also on the ANU's relations with Government. We both played a role in developing the Howard Government's Foreign Affairs Council - which met regularly with the Foreign Minister, and initially contained a large group of ANU Asianists. Merle and I, together with Ross Garnaut, also developed an Asian Studies Advisory Council at ANU, which brought together the VC - and a number of ANU senior Asianists - with the Foreign Minister, several other Ministers and Department heads, and the Opposition Leader."

After a 5-year term in this role, Merle was invited to become the founding Director of Melbourne University's new initiative -- the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies (MIALS). He was characteristically ambitious to ensure that MIALS became both a high class research school for graduate students (around 100 were enrolled by 2002) and an integrated Asia centre for the whole university, responsible directly to a DVC. It was a

tougher call on the budget of a university with many other priorities, and Merle's uncompromising rejection of lowering standards for budgetary purposes made some enemies. When he was on leave at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2003-4 the Faculty of Arts was able to re-absorb MIALS as a Department, without consulting Merle or the MIALS management. He resigned from the university in protest.

This was one of several setbacks for Asian Studies in Australia at about that time, along with the 'merging' of ANU's Faculty of Asian Studies (2007) and transformation of Griffith's School of Modern Asian Studies. John Howard's government appeared to want to bury the idea of 'Asia Literacy' as an Australian priority. The opportunity to appoint outstandingly productive young Southeast Asianists, in particular, in the 1970s and '80s had enabled many of them to rise to the top of the profession in the 1990s, as Merle Ricklefs well exemplified. The last decades of the century did mark an astonishing period of Australian leadership in Southeast Asian Studies, although at the end of that period it was becoming clear that Australian students were less interested than they had been in signing on.

Many of Australia's best Asianists found themselves better appreciated in Asia (and the US) than in Australia in the new century. Merle Ricklefs was among them. He spent his last years of teaching in Singapore (2005-11), helping NUS take up the mantle of leadership that ANU and Monash had worn. A product of that period was *A New History of Southeast Asia* (2010) that he coordinated and co-authored with some of his NUS colleagues. He returned to Australia in retirement, between an apartment in Melbourne and a much-loved rural getaway at Mt Beauty.

The personal life of Merle and Margaret was marked by tragedy. Their daughter Deborah died at 29 from a medical error. Multilingual son Norman was far away in the Middle East, while son Charles was looked after through the farm at Mt Beauty. Then came his own battle with cancer. He bore all this with stoic strength, never letting his personal life intrude into the professional. Many of his colleagues were unaware of the burdens he was carrying. Some indeed, found a new warmth in his last years.

Retirement brought some of the deserved rewards of an exceptionally creative life. The last book of his Islam trilogy, *Islam and its opponents in Java* (2012), was awarded the 2015 George Kahin prize for Southeast Asia scholarship. Australia awarded him a Centenary Medal in 2003 and an Order of Australia in 2017. Holland gave him the honour of *erelid* (honorary life member) of the KITLV in 2010. Indonesia made him one of the first foreigners to receive its *Penghargaan Kebudayaan* (Cultural Honour) in a grand ceremony in September 2016.

Once he knew how little time he had left, Merle devoted as much as he could to ensuring a little more of his erudition found its way into print. The last work, *Soul Catcher: Java's Fiery prince Mangkunegara I, 1726-95* completes the circle by returning to the formative eighteenth century on which he is the absolute and unique authority. It was fortunately published in 2018 to wide acclaim. Merle was able to attend the launch by Peter Carey, Virginia Hooker and Stuart Robson at Monash. He was working on checking the Indonesian translation of it right up to the time he died, designing the cover himself.

At least in Australia, I fear, we may not see his like again.

**Anthony Reid**

**[Originally prepared as an obituary for the Australian Academy of the Humanities]**

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## Colin Max Mayrhofer

Perth, December 15, 1940 – Melbourne, August 18, 2020

After having studied Classics at The University of Western Australia and graduating with a First-Class Honours degree in Latin (awarded in 1962), Colin travelled to Kings College Cambridge, UK, where he took, as was the custom of the time, a further BA (1964). A Cambridge MA was awarded in 1968. On returning to Australia Colin held a post briefly at The University of Newcastle (1965) before taking up a position as Senior Tutor in the Classics Department at The Australian National University, where he remained, as Lecturer and, later, Senior Lecturer, for 32 years (1966-1997).

Colin became a member of a thriving Classics Department under the leadership of Professor Richard Johnson. Here he taught Ancient Greek and Latin language and literature and certain strands of Ancient History. Colin's knowledge of classical literature was profound. And he taught across all genres in both languages. But it was ancient drama — tragedy and comedy — that truly engaged him. What appealed to him, I think, was the challenge of lifting each text (as it has come down to us, bare of any stage direction) from the page and imagining it— or, indeed, realizing it—on the stage. Not only did Colin teach ancient drama but he fostered its production in the Canberra community, supporting and advising, and on occasion performing. He worked willingly with the ANU students' Classical Society in its productions of Roman comedy, and with several semi-professional groups.

Under the terms of his employment Colin was a member of the ANU Classics Department, but his research activities were largely conducted in quite another sphere. It appears that during these early years at the ANU he was acquainting himself with another major branch of the Indo-European family of languages, the languages of North India, including Sanskrit, thanks to the encouragement and friendship of Professor Jan de Jong. Describing himself as 'a stranger from another discipline', Colin completed a PhD at the ANU in 1976 in South Asian and Buddhist Studies, supervised by the distinguished linguist Professor Luise Hercus, under the title 'Studies in the Bṛhatkathā'. This ancient Indian epic (its title means 'Great Story') has long been lost but several later adaptations in Sanskrit and Middle Indo-Aryan languages of North India (Apabhraṃśa) have survived. Drawing on these versions, Colin worked towards a reconstruction of the tale. The exercise brought together his high-level philological competence with his abiding interest in good stories and the art of storytelling.

Colin's major publication, in 1998, was the text and translation into English of the *Samdeśarāsaka*, composed in Apabhraṃśa by a Muslim poet of the thirteenth century, Abdul Rahman. This tale follows in a tradition of message poems that describe the messages that pass between pairs of lovers separated against their will. However, whereas traditional tales of this kind were inherently pathetic and ironic, Abdul Rahman's *Samdeśarāsaka* has been handled in what Colin describes as a parodic manner (in this case the lover actually returns before the messenger has been allowed to depart). A reviewer, in congratulating Colin on making this rare text accessible to a wider readership, has observed that it is an important document, too, for the light that it shines on a period for which little literary evidence has been located.

The poem is notorious for the difficulty of both its language and its style, which, straddling the gap between Middle Indo-Aryan and Old Vernacular, are not sufficiently explained in any reference works. Colin has allowed the charm of the poem to speak for itself. But, ever practical, he has included, as an aid to readers, a number of lexical indices and morphological tables in which the linguistic data of the entire text has been collated and recorded.

Colin was a brilliant philologist and a sensitive interpreter of texts, but he also enjoyed solving problems and performing practical tasks. One problem that absorbed him for many years was the challenge of how best to teach ancient languages, in this case Ancient Greek and Latin, to beginners, especially to students who had had no experience at all of studying a second language. After many experiments with different teaching programs, Colin, in 1990, proposed a new course of action entirely. Recognizing that much time is spent in all second-language courses explaining basic principles of grammar, he proposed that aspiring Ancient Greek and Latin students should be brought together for an initial semester and taught not only the basics of English grammar but also the application of those same principles to both Ancient Greek and Latin. Thus, by the end of semester (in a course with the uncompromising title Traditional Grammar) students would become confident in their grasp of English grammar and would have learnt key principles (and a small functioning vocabulary) in each of the classical languages as well. A modified version of this course, which appears to be unique to the ANU, continues to be offered to Classics students with considerable success. At about the same time, as an early adopter of new technologies, Colin developed an online tool for Latin learners. And more recently, while in a nursing home in Troyes, he developed an online learning tool to provide ethics training for carers, particularly those tending people with Alzheimer's.

In activities on campus Colin was a patient undergraduate teacher, a wise and perceptive postgraduate supervisor, who knew when to guide and when to step away, and an efficient and unflustered Head of Department. Off-campus he was a dedicated theatre-goer, a careful reader across literary genres in a number of European languages, a book-binder (restoring a number of books in the ANU Classics Library), and a warm and generous host. No culinary challenge seemed beyond him, from the baking of his own sourdough bread through to the creation of refined desserts. I witnessed his happy response to one particular challenge when, one evening, he turned out pizza after pizza for 30 to 40 eager, and hungry, undergraduate student members of the ANU Classical Society from the ovens in the old Haydon-Allen Tea Room.

Colin was also a swimmer, recognized by a Half-Blue from Cambridge while a student and, in retirement in both Perth and France, triumphs in Masters' Games. An accident in the surf off a Perth beach in 2008 left him a partial quadriplegic, with very little mobility. Colin, always so elegant and athletic a figure, accommodated the challenges that he increasingly encountered with stoic calm.

Through all his years at the ANU Colin moved back and forth between Australia and France with his wife, Jacqueline, whom he had met while he was studying in Cambridge. Jacqueline taught for many years in the French Department at the ANU. When she died in 2017, in Troyes, where they had been living for some years, Colin returned to Australia, to Melbourne, where he died on 18 August 2020.

Colin is remembered by his students and his colleagues for his learning, his tact, his collegiality, and his kindness.

**Elizabeth Minchin**

# Anticus and Godot

Once upon a time, Anticus was elected to the Precinct Committee. A visiting scholar from Princeton said it sounded like a body of policemen. But no, it was a body of academics which made recommendations to the Faculty on matters such as the layout of car parks, whether there should be a disabled ramp at the front door, how to improve the quality of the coffee in the Common Room, and the like. The like included the little courtyard and its loitering desire lines.

The courtyard, quiet, unassuming, was among three buildings. Near a corner, there was a wooden bench under a meagre tree, which looked as though waiting for Godot to turn up. Apart from that there was grass, mere human grass, and desire lines. Sometimes, towards the end of term, a tutorial group sat in a circle, exhilarated at doing their Pure Maths or German conversation on grass. On some Sunday mornings, it served as a pitch for a game of French cricket, when the laughter of scholars and their children could be heard. It also served as a place where students could lie in sun or shade, one arm over their eyes, doing what students often did in those pre-Facebook days, i.e. nothing much, just lying about, reading their Dostoevsky, one arm over their eyes, glancing at the sky through green leaves, trying to endure the unending fatigue of being young.

People crossing the courtyard followed, of course, the desire lines. That was what they were for. Well, it was a time of what was becoming known as ‘permissiveness’. It was the time, briefer than anyone could foresee, between the moment when desire lines, which had always existed, had at last been named as such, lending themselves the while to ribaldry in the flippant minds of some, and the next moment when they would stop existing and would never again need to be named as anything. The expression was an earnest of landscapers’ unconscionably nonsensical notion : before you set a path in concrete, wait to see where the people who have made it want to walk. Once they have laid down their meandering line, then you can make it over.

This permissiveness was soon called out for the unconscionable collegiality that it was. A group of academics having a say in how the University was run? Academics electing one of their number to the Deanship? Academics thinking that the University was theirs?

It was decided, in the passive voice, that the little courtyard be flooded by a tsunami of symbolic agapanthus. The sparse tree, Godot’s bench, the grass, the reading students, the French cricket, the laughing tutorials, all disappeared. As did the desire lines, replaced by concrete and people walking straight in preordained lines. And eventually, so did elected Deans, then Faculties and with them something of the feeling that the University belonged to academics.

The symbol blooms in high summer, when no one is there to see it. For the other fifty weeks, it just keeps academic things out.

*ANTIQVITVS*

## *Indigenous Self-Determination in Australia: Histories and Historiography*

Edited by: [Laura Rademaker](#) , [Tim Rowse](#) 

ISBN (print – rrp \$60.00): 9781760463779

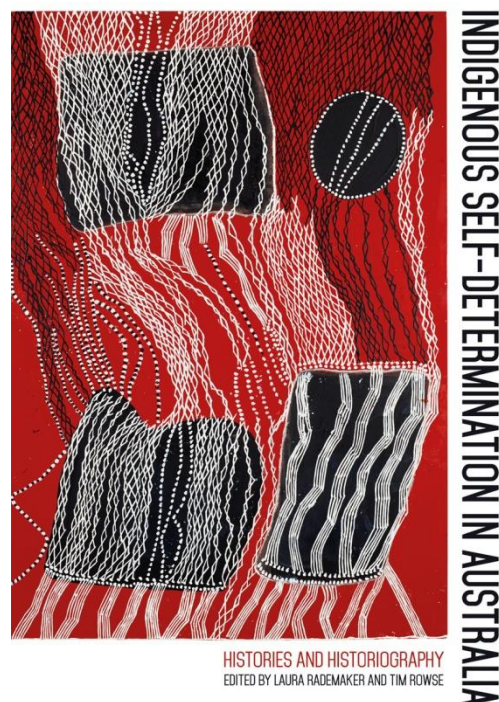
ISBN (online): 9781760463786

ANU Press, Co-publisher: [Aboriginal History](#)

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/ISA.2020>

Series: [Aboriginal History Monographs](#)

Histories of the colonisation of Australia have recognised distinct periods or eras in the colonial relationship: ‘protection’ and ‘assimilation’. It is widely understood that, in 1973, the Whitlam Government initiated a new policy era: ‘self-determination’. Yet, the defining features of this era, as well as how, why and when it ended, are far from clear. In this collection we ask: how shall we write the history of self-determination? How should we bring together, in the one narrative, innovations in public policy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives? How (dis)continuous has ‘self-determination’ been with ‘assimilation’ or with what came after? Among the contributions to this book there are different views about whether Australia is still practising ‘self-determination’ and even whether it ever did or could. This book covers domains of government policy and Indigenous agency including local government, education, land rights, the outstation movement, international law, foreign police, capital programs,



health, public administration, mission policies and the policing of identity. Each of the contributors is a specialist in his/her topic. \*\*\*

***Forts and Fortification in Wallacea: Archaeological and Ethnohistoric Investigations***

Edited by: [Sue O'Connor](#) , [Andrew McWilliam](#) , [Sally Brockwell](#) 

ISBN (print – rrp \$75.00): 9781760463885

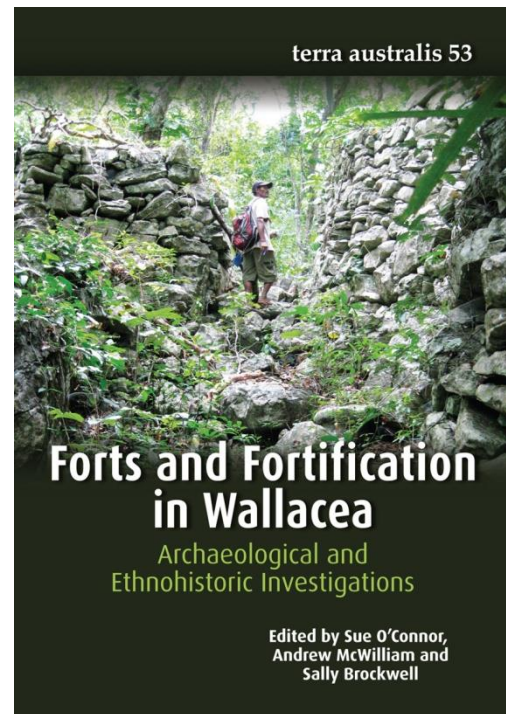
ISBN (online): 9781760463892

ANU Press; Note: Terra Australis 53

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/TA53.2020>

Series: [Terra Australis](#)

‘This volume presents ground-breaking research on fortified sites in three parts of Wallacea by a highly regarded group of scholars from Australia, Europe, Southeast Asia and the United States. In addition to surveying and dating defensive sites in often remote and difficult terrain, the chapters provide an important and scholarly set of archaeological and ethnohistoric studies that investigate the origin of forts in Wallacea. Socio-political instability from climate events, the materialisation of indigenous belief systems, and the substantial impact of imperial expansion and European colonialism are examined and comprise a significant addition to our knowledge of conflict and warfare in an under-studied part of the Indo-Pacific. The archaeological record for past conflict is frequently ambiguous and the contribution of warfare to social development is mired in debate and paradox. Authors demonstrate that forts and other defensive



constructions are costly and complicated structures that, while designed and built to protect a community from a threat of imminent violence, had (and have) complicated life histories as a result of their architectural permanence, strategic locations and traditional cultural and political significance. Understanding why conflict outbreaks – like human colonisation – often appear in the past as a punctuated event can best be approached through long-term records of conflict and violence involving archaeology and allied historical disciplines, as has been successfully done here. The volume is essential reading for archaeologists, cultural heritage managers and those with an interest in conflict studies.’

— Professor Geoffrey Clark, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University. \*\*\*

## *Goodna Girls: A History of Children in a Queensland Mental Asylum*

by: [Adele Chynoweth](#) 

ISBN (print – rrp \$50.00): 9781760463908

ISBN (online): 9781760463915

ANU Press; DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/GG.2020>

Series: [Aboriginal History Monographs](#)

Co-publisher: [Aboriginal History](#)

*Goodna Girls* tells the story of children incarcerated in Wolston Park Hospital, an adult psychiatric facility in Queensland, Australia. It contains the personal testimonies of women who relate—in their own no-holds-barred style and often with irreverent humour—how they, as children, ended up in Wolston Park and how this affected their adult lives. The accounts of hospital staff who witnessed the effects of this heinous policy and spoke out are also included.

The book examines the consequences of the Queensland Government's manipulation of a medical model to respond to 'juvenile delinquents', many of whom were simply vulnerable children absconding from abusive conditions. As Australia faces the repercussions of the institutionalisation of its children in the twentieth century, brought about through a series of government inquiries, *Goodna Girls* makes a vital contribution to the public history of the Stolen Generations, Former Child Migrants and Forgotten Australians. *Goodna Girls* presents the research that informed a successful, collective campaign to lobby the Queensland Government to



make long overdue and much-needed reparations to a group of courageous survivors. It holds contemporary resonance for scholars, policymakers and practitioners in the fields of public history, welfare, child protection, education, nursing, sociology, medicine and criminology.

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## *How Local Art Made Australia's National Capital*

by: [Anni Doyle Wawrzyńczak](#)

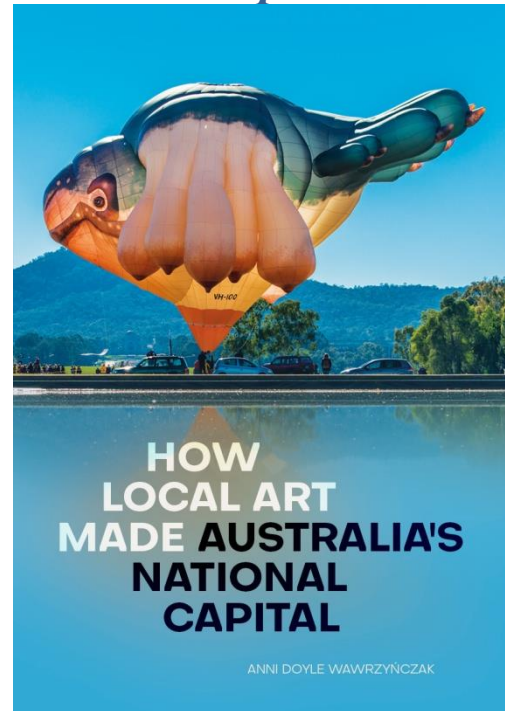
ISBN (print – rrp: \$60.00): 9781760463403

ISBN (online): 9781760463410

ANU Press; DOI:

<http://doi.org/10.22459/HLAMANC.2020>

Canberra's dual status as national capital and local city dramatically affected the rise of a unique contemporary arts scene. This complex story, informed by rich archival material and interviews, details the triumph of local arts practice and community over the insistent cultural nation-building of Australia's capital. It exposes local arts as a vital force in Canberra's development and uncovers the influence of women in the growth of its visual arts culture. A broad illumination of the city-wide development of arts and culture from the 1920s to 2001 is combined with the story of Bitumen River Gallery and its successor Canberra Contemporary Art Space from 1978 to 2001.



This history traces the growth of the arts from a community-led endeavour, through a period of responses to social and cultural needs, and ultimately to a humanising local practice that transcended national and international boundaries.

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# EASTASIAFORUM

ECONOMICS, POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC *Quarterly*  
Vol.12 No.3 July–September 2020 \$9.50



## Japan's choices

**Adam S. Posen** Japan can do much to rebuild the global economic system

**Sachiko Kuroda** Future-proofing Japan's labour-market recovery

**Yoshihide Sogaya** Middle powers can shape a new security framework

**Sota Kato and Iku Yoshimoto** Why did Abe's popularity fall? ... **and more**

**ASIAN REVIEW: Shivshankar Menon**  
Domestic concerns still shape India's foreign policy

ISSN (print): 1837-5081

ISSN (online): 1837-509X

ANU Press. DOI:

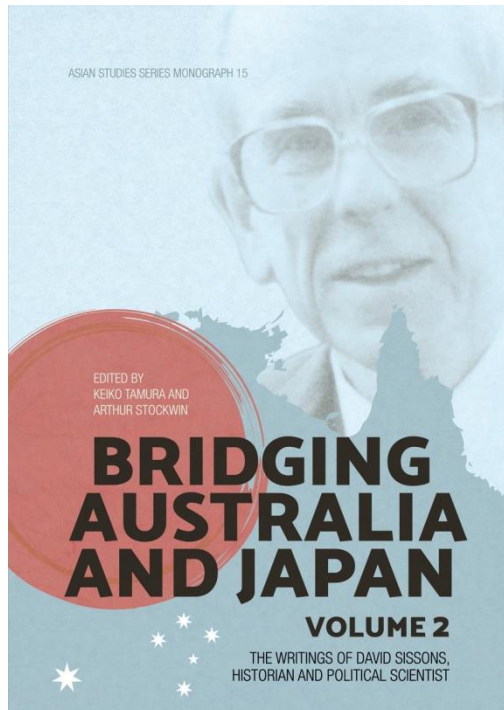
<http://doi.org/10.22459/EAFQ.12.03.2020>

## East Asia Forum Quarterly: Volume 12, Number 3, 2020

This issue examines how Japan will navigate the policy challenges associated with a post-COVID and post-Abe world. Our contributors offer a variety of perspectives on Japan's global leadership role, domestic politics, health governance, diplomatic strategy and economic recovery. Our Asian Review pieces examine the domestic drivers of India's foreign policy and the shaping of politics in China. Japan's choices will be consequential — potentially pivotal — as the world moves through an inflection point in history. The United States and China are locking into strategic rivalry, with both countries dealing poorly with transition to a more multipolar order. How the rest of the world responds will determine global security, prosperity and stability for decades to come.

## ***Bridging Australia and Japan: Volume 2: The writings of David Sissons, historian and political scientist***

Edited by [Keiko Tamura](#), [Arthur Stockwin](#)



ISBN (print): 9781760463755

ISBN (online): 9781760463762

Note: Asian Studies Series Monograph 15  
ANU Press; DOI:

<http://doi.org/10.22459/BAJ.2020>

This book is volume two of the writings of David Sissons, who first established his academic career as a political scientist specialising in Japanese politics, and later shifted his focus to the history of Australia–Japan relations. In this volume, we reproduce his writings on Japanese politics, the Pacific War and Australian war crimes trials after the war. He was a pioneer in these fields, carrying out research across cultural and language borders, and influenced numerous researchers who followed in his footsteps. Much of what he wrote, however, remained unpublished at the time of his death in 2006, and so the editors have

included a selection of his hitherto unpublished work along with some of his published writings.

[Breaking Japanese Diplomatic Codes](#), edited by Desmond Ball and Keiko Tamura, was published in 2013, and the first volume of [Bridging Australia and Japan](#) was published in 2016. This book completes this series, which reproduces many of David Sissons’ writings. The current volume covers a wide range of topics, from Japanese wartime intentions towards Australia, the Cowra Breakout, and Sissons’ early writings on Japanese politics. Republished in this volume is his comprehensive essay on the Australian war crimes trials, which influenced the field of military justice research. Georgina Fitzpatrick and Keiko Tamura have also contributed essays reflecting on his research.

Sissons was an extraordinarily meticulous researcher, leaving no stone unturned in his search for accuracy and completeness of understanding, and should be considered one of Australia’s major historians. His writings deal not only with diplomatic negotiations and decision-making, but also the lives of ordinary and often nameless people and their engagements with their host society. His warm humanity in recording ordinary people’s lives as well as his balanced examination of historical incidents and issues from both Australian and Japanese perspectives are hallmarks of his scholarship.

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## *Russia Washed in Blood: A Novel in Fragments*

By Artyom Vesoly

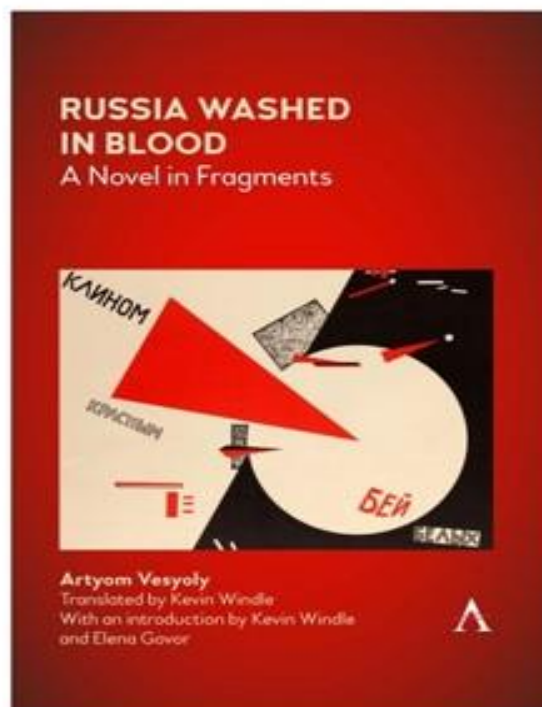
Translated by Kevin Windle with an introduction by Kevin Windle and Elena Govor

Artyom Vesoly's *Russia Washed in Blood*, first published in full in 1932, is a vivid fictionalised account of the Russian Civil War of 1918-1921.

The author, who had been a soldier in the Red Army, made it his mission to record the full horror of the events of that period and their effects on the lives of ordinary people.

For his failure to recognise the 'leading organisational role' of the Communist Party he was arrested and executed in Stalin's Great Purge of 1938.

This is the first English translation. It includes passages removed by the censor from the Russian editions.



ISBN: 978-1-78527-484-8

The price is: hardback £120 pounds or US\$200; E-book £50 pounds, US\$80.

However, large sections can be read on line, gratis, at Google Books:

[https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Russia\\_Washed\\_in\\_Blood.html?id=gZXyDwAAQBAJ&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Russia_Washed_in_Blood.html?id=gZXyDwAAQBAJ&redir_esc=y)

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*Matters of possible interest*

## ***Birds of Paradise - Ellis Rowan in New Guinea***

***Birds of Paradise: Ellis Rowan in New Guinea*** is now open at the National Library. Best known for her striking wildflower paintings, Ellis Rowan also had an interest in birds and produced a stunning collection of New Guinea's Birds of Paradise (*Paradisaeidae*) in approximately 1917. This exhibition, curated by Dr Grace Blakeley-Carroll, showcases 13 of Ellis Rowan's most exquisite watercolour paintings of Birds of Paradise, providing a glimpse into their complex mating rituals and elaborates courtship dances. Also displayed is a selection of plate designs featuring smaller representations of the Birds of Paradise.

For those unable to make it to the Library, visit the National Library's website to view the works online, learn more about Ellis Rowan, and uncover more from the Library's significant Ellis Rowan Collection.

**Open daily | 9am to 5pm**  
**Exhibition Gallery | Free**

## **Time travellers welcome at the National Film and Sound Archive**

The National Film and Sound Archive is again open to the public in Canberra. Visitors can plan their visit by checking the Archive's program, so visitors know what is on offer on the day of a visit. The Archive's new public space, Hive, and its daily film programs (Vintage Australia and Black Screen) are free and no bookings are necessary, but all other events require online bookings as the Archive is operating cashless. Its website has details of relevant COVID safety measures.

Opening hours are Monday to Sunday between 10am and 4pm. For more information contact

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, McCoy Circuit Acton, ACT, 2601 (02) 6248 2000 or access [www.nfsa.gov.au/](http://www.nfsa.gov.au/)

## **WHO's news links**

For members interested in news from the World Health Organisation the following updated links may be useful: **All previous situation reports are at:**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

### **Media assets and information on COVID-19**

<https://who.canto.global/v/coronavirus>

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## **ANU's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans**

The Australian National University is gearing up to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, which takes place on 1 August, 2021. A new project called ANU75 is being launched to commemorate this anniversary, collecting stories and information from across campus that relate to the University's more recent history from the 1990s to the present day. To contribute or for more information contact Project Coordinator Dr Daniel Oakman, from the School of History at the ANU Research School of Social Sciences, ph. 6125 2722 or email [Daniel.Oakman@anu.edu.au](mailto:Daniel.Oakman@anu.edu.au).

## Diary Dates in abeyance

Craig Reynolds is coordinator of ANUEF's Events' Diary ([creynolds697@gmail.com](mailto:creynolds697@gmail.com) also [Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au](mailto:Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au)).

### Meet the author

While all previously scheduled Meet-the-Author events have been cancelled in the present COVID-19 emergency, some virtual events will take place.

**Tuesday, September 15 at 6-7pm** ANU/*The Canberra Times* Meet the Author series In Conversation with Katharine Murphy who will be in conversation with Mark Kenny on Katharine's new Quarterly Essay *The End of Certainty. Scott Morrison and Pandemic Politics*. Epidemics are mirrors. What has COVID-19 revealed about Australia, and about Scott Morrison and his government? In this essay, Katharine Murphy goes behind the scenes to tell the story of the response to the crisis. Drawing on interviews with Morrison, Brendan Murphy, Josh Frydenberg, Sally McManus and other players, she traces how the key health and economic decisions were taken. Her account is twinned with a portrait of the prime minister. She explores his blend of pragmatism and faith, and shows how a leader characterised by secrecy and fierce certainty learnt to compromise and reach out – with notable exceptions. Now, as the nation turns inwards and unemployment rises, our faith in government is about to be tested anew. What does “We’re all in this together” truly mean? Will Morrison snap back to Liberal hard-man, or will he redefine centre-right politics in this country?

Katharine Murphy has been *Guardian Australia's* political editor since 2016, working in Canberra's parliamentary press gallery for 22 years. She is the author of *On Disruption*, a regular commentator on television and radio and is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Journalism at the University of Canberra, from which she was awarded an honorary doctorate in October 2019. Katharine has won the Paul Lyneham award for excellence in press gallery journalism and has been a Walkley finalist twice.

Mark Kenny is Professor at the Australian Studies Institute at ANU, an appointment following a high-profile journalistic career culminating in six years as chief political correspondent and national affairs editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, and *The Canberra Times*. He is a regular on the ABC's *Insiders* program, *Sky News Agenda*, and radio programs across the country.

Signed copies of Katharine's book will be available for sale at Harry Hartog bookshop, ANU. If you would like to submit a question to be answered in conversation, please email [events@anu.edu.au](mailto:events@anu.edu.au) with your question for Chris.

For further Meet-the-Author information, contact Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences. Ph. 6125 8983 or by email: [colin.steele@anu.edu.au](mailto:colin.steele@anu.edu.au)

### Administration

#### Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty **Jan O'Connor** at [jantancress@gmail.com](mailto:jantancress@gmail.com) or **Tel: 6247 3341**

#### Finding the Molony Room

